

# DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

## PRESIDENT'S CABINET

### *Minutes*

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**Meeting date: February 1, 2016**

**Members in attendance:** President William LaForge, Dr. Libby Carlson, Dr. E.E. Caston, Dr. Leslie Fadiga-Stewart, Mr. Keith Fulcher, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, Dr. Charles McAdams, Ms. Marilyn Read, Dr. Michelle Roberts, and Mr. Mikel Sykes  
(Ms. Claire Cole – recorder)

**Members not in attendance:** Mr. Steve McClellan

**Guest:** Ms. Laura Howell

**Call to Order:** A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on February 1, 2016. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

#### **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

- President LaForge asked Dr. McAdams to give an update on Mr. McClellan's recovery. Dr. McAdams stated Mr. McClellan is doing well and is scheduled to return to Cleveland today. He will return to work on Tuesday, and will work half-days the rest of the week.
- President LaForge informed Cabinet Members of a few points Governor Bryant made during his State of the State Address. Governor Bryant mentioned the notion of four-year universities granting associate degrees, and the main issue discussed was the statewide budget cuts.
- President LaForge received an update on the VPSA search from Dr. Temika Simmons. She stated the application process is closed, and there are 34 applicants. Of the 34 applicants, only one was a repeat from the first round, and no one from Delta State applied. The committee will begin the sorting process and will begin telephone interviews within the coming weeks.
- President LaForge asked Dr. McAdams to give an update on the VPFA search. Dr. McAdams stated the position has been posted and will remain open for two weeks. As of right now, seven applications have been received, and all candidates seem well qualified.
- President LaForge informed Cabinet Members that the Hearin Foundation may not have funds to distribute this year, and so the request for proposals process has been suspended.
- President LaForge visited Hernando High School and Horn Lake High School for recruiting purposes. Each school meeting was with approximately 400 members of the junior class. President LaForge believes his recruiting efforts in Desoto County are going well. Later, President LaForge visited Memphis, TN for donor visits. He met with Mr. Louis Baioni (Foundation Board Member) and Mr. Tim Harvey (Foundation Board President) for lunch. Following the lunch, he met with Mr. Harvey about our Capital Campaign.
- President LaForge wished Mr. Mayers a happy birthday, and asked him to give an update on Athletics. Mr. Mayers stated the men's and women's basketball teams won their games on Saturday against Christian Brothers University. The softball team had a great start to their season with a 2-2 score. This week, the basketball teams play on Thursday and Saturday at home, and the baseball team begins their season at home with three games.

- President LaForge asked Dr. McAdams to give an update on enrollment. Dr. McAdams stated that we are facing challenges in the area of enrollment as evidenced by the enrollment updates sent by Ms. Emily Dabney in Institutional Research. An Enrollment Consultant will be on campus this week to help DSU re-evaluate all areas of enrollment to determine what seeds need to be planted and what needs to change to increase our enrollment and retention. The consultant will meet with several groups across campus to gain a complete understanding of our enrollment needs.
- President LaForge discussed this week’s schedule. He visited with the Speech and Hearing Sciences department today and will host a dinner for our Perm State University guests tonight in the Leroy E. Morganti Atrium in Kent Wyatt Hall. The HEADWAE Luncheon is Tuesday in Jackson. Our student honoree is Mikel Sykes and the faculty honoree is Dr. Ethan Schmidt (posthumously.) The BPAC Performance, Annie, is Tuesday evening. President LaForge has invited the Perm State University guests to attend with him. On Wednesday, President LaForge will welcome students for “Student for a Day.” On Friday, President LaForge will welcome students for the HOSA 2016 Northern District Conference, resume First Friday Faculty meetings for the semester, and give the University Update at the Alumni Association Board meeting.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On motion by Mr. Mayers, seconded by Dr. Caston, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on January 25, 2016.

**CABINET TOPIC**

**Visioning Process..... Mr. McClellan**

Ms. Laura Howell, Executive Director of the Bologna Performing Arts Center, presented the BPAC portion of Mr. McClellan’s visioning process. Ms. Howell began by stating what an integral part the BPAC has played for Delta State and the Mississippi Delta the last 22 years. It has established itself as a premier cultural center of activity demonstrated through space usage, fine arts presenters, strong donor base, performance hall, and rental capability. An average of 250 events are held in the BPAC each year, and fine arts presenters conduct approximately 24 events annually. Their donor base includes over 120 individual donors plus an average of 10 corporate supporters. Their performance hall has seating for 1,200 individuals for campus and community events and has been rented by groups such as Delta Council and GRAMMY Museum Mississippi. Ms. Howell’s vision for the BPAC in the next five to ten years includes adding a Family Series to their line-up and revamping their arts education programming. In order to continue being an integral part of the Delta State campus and Mississippi Delta, their facility needs updating through the following additions: an elevator, additional restrooms, an event space, a catering kitchen, and a boardroom. Several patrons and guests cannot comfortably navigate the steep staircases inside the BPAC and need an alternative to get to higher seats within the theater. With crowds reaching 1,000+, one set of restrooms is inadequate for a space of its size. Ms. Howell proposed to Cabinet Members the addition of an Arts Annex Facility for the west side of the BPAC that would include event space, a catering kitchen, and a boardroom. The annex would be targeted towards campus and community users. Past estimations for an addition of an annex totaled \$3.5 million. Annual operational costs for an annex would flow through the BPAC’s operating budget and would be funded through the increased ability to hold rental events. By adding the annex, Ms. Howell feels the BPAC will be able to provide a top-notch event/meeting space that Delta State can use to increase its earned income.

**Visioning Process.....Mr. Mayers**

Mr. Mayers believes DSU Athletics has a bright future and has a large role to play in the success of Delta State. Our Athletics department has created a lasting legacy of developing champions on and off the field of competition. Mr. Mayers stated as we move into an ever-changing period within the NCAA and intercollegiate athletics, DSU must be proactive with our budgets, sponsorships, administration/staff planning, and scheduling of sporting events and non-athletically related programming. One area Mr. Mayers would like to see grow in regards to the growth of our Athletics department is our staffing. Additional positions are needed: Assistant AD for Academic Support, Head and Assistant Strength and Conditioning Coach, Executive Assistant, and an assistant coach for each sport. To be able to compete with other universities looking for coaches, Mr. Mayers would also like to increase all positions' salaries to NCAA market or Gulf South Conference averages. Currently, DSU is the only school that does not offer women's volleyball and is one of the few that does not sponsor women's golf. As the Athletics department works towards increasing scholarship opportunities for female students, they would like to add women's golf, women's volleyball, and women's outdoor track and field by 2026. In adding these three sports, staffing positions and facilities would need to be created and budgets increased to accommodate for additional recruiting and scholarships. Mr. Mayers and his staff are dedicated to their athlete's academic well-being and are working toward exceeding the national average for graduation rates at the NCAA Division II level. In order to work towards this goal, the athletic department would like to create a process for tracking progress towards degrees as required by the NCAA and GSC, and to develop a cohesive strategy for academic tutoring/support with the Student Success Center. External relations and operations is charged with generating revenue, donor development, marketing, and communications. To help further this department, they would like to see a marketing budget for the Athletics department, additional staff positions to help expand the brand, and additional office space. The Compliance/Academics/Internal Operations is responsible for the comprehensive efforts of education and enforcement of NCAA and GSC rules and regulations and monitoring student-athlete academics as it pertains to eligibility and graduation. To further internal operations, they would like to purchase a comprehensive software package to make the academic compliance and operations activities of the entire department more efficient and effective. Also, they would like to separate the position of Operations and Compliance Coordinator to ensure a more focused approach for compliance within the NCAA's dynamic environment. Game Day Operations would like for a budget to be created for their use in order to promote games and have pre-event and in-game promotions. They would like to train game day and event staff and budget for a new ticketing system including new software and required technology for all point of sale entries at all venues. The sports medicine budget should increase to reflect the rising costs of supplies and insurance, and include purchasing medical, prescription, and accident insurance for student athletes. Equipment should be updated to include modalities, therapy pools, and rehab equipment, and staffing should increase to eight Certified Athletic Trainers. All sports sponsored by DSU would like to see their recruiting and commodities budget increase in the coming years, and to be able to offer more scholarships to students. Our sports facilities need to be upgraded to be able to compete with other universities, and staffing positions need to be added. Mr. Mayers has been looking into ways to update our sports' facilities such as a new tennis court in Statesman Park and updating McCool Stadium, once Statesman Boulevard is completed.

**BUSINESS**

**Action**

**None**

## **Discussion**

None

## **INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:**

- Annie, February 2, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Mama Mia, February 18, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- GRAMMY Museum Mississippi, Grand Opening, March 5
- Beatles 2016: From Cavern to the Candlestick Symposium, April 1-2, GRAMMY Museum Mississippi
- IHL Board meeting at DSU, April 21, 2016

## **NEXT MEETING:**

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, February 8, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Visioning Process Presentation (Butch and Steve)

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 2:56 pm.